



# NEWS RELEASE

## HOWARD COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF POLICE OFFICE OF PUBLIC AFFAIRS

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### **Police urge football fans to drive sober on Super Bowl Sunday**

*Wife of HCPD officer injured by drunk driver to speak at news conference*

Howard County police will be out in force Super Bowl weekend working to keep the roads safe. Police are alerting drivers that saturation patrols will be in place to seek out impaired drivers and take them off the road. The department is urging football fans who plan to attend Super Bowl parties to designate a sober driver before consuming any alcohol.

This year, the Howard County Police Department will join nearly a dozen law enforcement agencies in the region in “40-on-40,” a DUI enforcement campaign along the Route 40 corridor throughout the weekend. Eva O’Croinin, wife of HCPD Police Officer First Class Mike Marino, who was injured in March 2015 when his patrol car was struck by a drunk driver, will speak at the “40-on-40” campaign news conference, held at 7 p.m. today at Maryland State Police’s Golden Ring Barrack in Essex. PFC Marino has recovered from his injuries and is one of several HCPD officers participating in the “40-on-40” campaign.

According to the Maryland Highway Safety Office, police officers in Maryland made more than 22,000 arrests for DUI last year through checkpoints and DUI patrols, all of which could have been avoided with the use of a designated driver.

HCPD and the Maryland Highway Safety Office offer the following tips to celebrate safely this Super Bowl weekend.

If you’re attending a Super Bowl party:

- Designate a sober driver or plan another way to get home safely before the party begins.
- If you don’t have a sober driver, call a friend, call a cab, or stay for the night.
- Never let friends drive if they’ve had too much to drink.

If you’re hosting a party:

- Encourage your guests to designate a sober driver in advance.
- Serve plenty of food and non-alcoholic beverages.
- Keep the numbers for local cab companies handy or arrange for alternate transportation.
- Take the keys away from guests who shouldn’t be driving.

Officers will be out in increased numbers before and after the game looking for drivers exhibiting signs of impairment. The department also reminds drivers and passengers to always wear a seatbelt; a properly worn seatbelt is the best defense against injury in any crash.

More tips for a safe Super Bowl weekend can be found on Twitter @HCPDNews and Facebook.com/HowardCountyPoliceDepartment.

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